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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26  
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary organizations that educate, enrich, and honor the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame have been established to honor the memorable people and aircraft that have made outstanding contributions to the field of aviation; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame will promote a better understanding and sense of appreciation of the origins and growth of aviation and the role it has played and continues to play in the lives of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, which will house the Tennessee Hall of Fame, will be ideally located at the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport, which serves as the primary air transportation link for corporate and general aviation aircraft to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge resort area; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation plans to place special emphasis on youth programs that will introduce youngsters to the realm of flight, to Tennesseans who have

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made special contributions to aviation, to our nation's magnificent aviation history and to the many exciting careers available in the field of aviation; and

WHEREAS, this living air museum will be the basic foundation of what is expected to become a repository of historical military and civilian aircraft and artifacts and memorabilia commemorating Tennessee's and this nation's grand aviation history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation will exhibit flyable, airworthy, historical "War Bird" aircraft, and visitors will be treated to impromptu flight demonstrations of some of the museum's historic aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the Aviation Museum will be a magnificent, imposing structure consisting of: a 10,000 square foot Aircraft Restoration and Maintenance hangar that was completed in mid-November 2000; a 45,000 square foot concrete aircraft parking ramp; a more than 46,000 square foot museum hangar, which is still under construction and which will house aircraft and aviation historical exhibits; The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame; gift shops; an aviation education section; administrative offices; and conference facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation will open in May 2001 and is expected to become a magnet for aviation events across the nation, appealing to flying clubs, aviation organizations and other aeronautical special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame was founded for the purpose of recognizing and enshrining individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to aviation and air transportation in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during the winter of 2001, an inaugural enshrinement ceremony, to be held at the Museum of Aviation, is planned to honor leaders and contributors to aviation by inducting them into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, annual ceremonies will be held to honor and induct new members into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Aviation Hall of Fame's exhibits will be displayed at the entrance to the museum's main hangar; however, the Hall of Fame will also feature a mobile education exhibit that will travel the breadth and length of this great state; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame will serve as an aviation education resource, a place of encouragement and growth for children, and as a repository for the grand history of aviation; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame will deftly unite the future of Tennessee with its past, as these worthy institutions honor and display Tennessee's wondrous contributions to the field of aviation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the foundation of the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame, as we thank both these exemplary institutions for bringing honor and recognition to those extraordinary Tennesseans and magnificent aircraft that have made lasting contributions to aviation and air transportation, and for providing educational opportunities to citizens both young and old. We extend to the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and their organizers, administrators and staff our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.